Pasquils Iests,

Mixed with Mother Bunches *Merriments.*

Wherevnto is added a doozen of Gulles.

Pretty and pleasant, to driue
away the tediousnesse of a
Winters Euening.

Imprinted at London for Iohn Browne,
and are to be sold at his shop in Saint
Dunstones Church-yard, in Fleet-
street. 1604.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Pasquils Iests, and Mother *Bunches Merriments.*

A tale of a Scriuener of London and a Countreyman.

IT fell out vpon a Satterday, being market day, that a Countrie fellow, of the better sort of husbandrie, came to London, to lay out a little money vpõ some necessary trinkets: and hauing dispatched his businesse, after hee had prettily refreshed his spirits with a pot of the best that the Alehouse could afford him, made homewards very merily; but by the way, casting his eye, by chance, vpon a kind of writers, that would haue bin a Scriueners shop, and seeing the master of the poore house, or the poore master of the house, sitting alone in a rugge gowne, wrapping in his armes, to auoyd the bitternesse of the weather, minding to make himselfe a little sport, fell thus to salute the poore Pen-man: I pray you, master, what might you sel in your shop, that you haue so many ding-dõgs hang at your doore? Why, my friend, quoth the Obligation-maker, I sell nothing but Logger-heads. By my fay, master, quoth the Country man, you haue made a faire market with them, for you haue left but one in your shop, that I see: and so laughing, went his way, leauing much good sport to them that heard him.

A pretty tale of a poore man and a Lawyer.

A Poore man hauing bin much iniured by an vnkinde neighbour, who by the power of his purse would haue put him by the right of his land, went to a Lawyer dwelling not farre off, to whom hauing deliuered his griefe, he gaue little for his counsell, but a great many thãks, and countrie curtsies, with God saue his life, and so forth: entreating him to let him know when he should againe wait

vpon him for his further aduice. Who answered him somewhat short, When you will neighbour, when you will. The poore man, vpon this when you will, came oftentimes afterward to him, but found no will in him to speake with him. Wherupon the poore man telling his wife of his ill hap, was aduised by her to take one of his best lambes, and present it vnto him, and then he should see what would follow: her counsell he followed, toke his lambe, and went to the Lawyer: to whose gate he was no sooner come, but the Lawyer hearing the bleating of his lamb, opening his window, called him vp, and within two words told him he vnderstood his case, and all should bee well: wherewith hee departed, meeting with his wife going to the market. After they had beene at the Alehouse, & taken a pot or two, the poore man got him vp into the market place: and there hauing his throat wel cleared, made this mad out-crie: All ye that haue any matters to trie in law, get ye euerie one a fat lambe, and carry to your Lawyer: for one word of a lambes mouth will bee better vnderstood of the Lawyer, and doe more good, then twentie of your owne. Probatum.

Of a Citizen of London, that rid out of the City fiue myles.

A Citizen riding to Edmonton, had his man following him on foote, who came so neere, that the horse strake him a great blowe on the thigh. The fellow thinking to be reuenged, toke vp a great stone to throw at the horse, and hit his master on the raynes of the backe. Within a while his master looked backe, and seeing his man come halting so farre behind, chid him. Sir, your horse hath giuen me such a blow, quoth his man, on the thigh, that I can go no faster. Truely, sayd his master, the horse is a great kicker, for likewise with his heele right now, hee gaue me a great stroke on the reynes of my backe: when it was his man that threw the stone.

A pretty

A pretty tale of a Complaynant that cryed to a Iudge for Iuſtice, yet refuſed it when it was offered him.

ONe Dromo, a certayne Tiler, ſitting vpon the ridge of a houſe, laying on certayne rofe tiles, looking back, and reaching ſomewhat too farre, for a little morter, that lay by him, fell backeward, and by good hap, fell vpon a man that was ſitting vnder the houſe, whom with his fall he bruiſed to death, but thereby ſaued his owne life. Not many dayes after, a ſonne of the dead mans, cauſed this man to bee apprehended for murther, and hauing him before the Iudge, cried vnto him for Iuſtice: who aſking of the priſoner what he could ſay for himſelfe, receiued this anſwer, Truly ſir, I neuer thought the man any hurt, neither did I thinke to fall: but ſince it was my hap to hit vpon him to ſaue my life, if it pleaſe your Lordſhip, I am contented that hee ſhall haue iuſtice: for my ſelfe, I had no malice to his father, though I ſée he hath a great deale to me: but let him doe his worſt, I care not, I aſke no fauour: let him goe vp to the top of the houſe where I ſate, and I will ſit where his father ſate, let him fall from the place as cunningly as hée can, and fall vpon me to ſaue his life, I will be contented. The Iudge ſéeing the mans Innocency, in intent of any euill to the man whome hee had ſlayne, willed the Complaynant to take this courſe for his contentment: which hee refuſing, was diſmiſſed the Court, and the Priſoner thus by his wit releaſed.

How a Marchant loſt his purſe betweene Waltam and London.

A Marchant that trauailed betweene Ware and London, loſt his budget, wherein was a hundred pound, who cauſed to proclayme in all villages & market townes, that who

so had found the same, and would restore it againe, should haue twenty pounds for his paynes. An honest husbandman that chaunced to finde it, brought it to the Baylife of Ware, and required his twenty pounds for his paynes, when he deliuered it. When the couetous Marchant vnderstood this, and that he must néedes pay twenty pound for the finding of it, he sayd, there was an hundred and twenty pound in the Budget, and so would haue had his owne money, and twenty pound ouer. So long they stroue, that the matter was brought before a Iustice. When the Iustice vnderstood by the Baylife, that the cry was made for a budget with an hundred pound in it, he demaunded where it was: Héere (quoth the Baylife) and gaue it him. Is it iust an hundred pound (quoth the Iustice? Yes (quoth the Baylife.) Hold (quoth the Iustice) to him that found the budget, take thou this money to thy vse, and if thou happen to find a budget with a hundred and twenty pound, bring it to this honest Marchant man. It is mine, I lost no more but a hundreth pound (quoth the Marchant.) You speake now too late (quoth the Iustice) for your couetousnesse hath beguiled your selfe.

A Iest, sauing your reuerence, worth the laughing at.

IN a City, I find not where, met a company, I know not who, and about I know not what: but after that they had layd their heads together, to conclude vpon a thing of nothing, as the vse is of such kind of people, fearing to surfet of fasting, they got them to dinner, where, when their bellies were full of wine, their braynes set their tongues to worke about wonders: and hauing made a great noyse to little purpose, they fell to questioning among themselues, what was the rarest thing in the world. One, he sayd, The Phœnix, because there was but one, and she killed herselfe, and lined againe of her owne ashes. Another sayd, A Diamond, because

cause it would write in glasse. Another sayd, A Parrat, because it would speak like a man. Another sayd, A true friend, the world was so full of falshood. Another sayd, Gold, for that it wrought wonders in ỹ world. And another said, Loue, because it robbed wise men of their wits. But while they did thus differ in their opinions, one plaine Asse-headed fole, being willing to say his mind, vpon a sudden falling into a laughing, told them they were all wide: for he knew a rarer thing then all they: which they desiring to know, hee told them it was a swéet arse-hole. Whereat euery one holding themselues by the nose, left off their talke, and laughing at the foole, rose from the table.

How cunningly a knaue deuised to get money by his wit, for himselfe and his three companions.

THrée loytring companions that fell in company together, dominéerd so long, that all their money was consumed and gone. So being pennylesse, sayd one of them, By my fayth, we are now in a faire taking: for we may, if we will, séeke our dinner with Duke Humpréy. Nay, Zounds (quoth the second) If I come where any préese of people be, I can get money enough for vs all. Sblood, and I (quoth the third) can lightly assemble people. They were at that time not passing two miles from a small towne in Barkshire, where, when they came, there was a new Pillory set vp, where the third of them steps to the Bayliffe, and desires him to haue the Mayden-head of their new pillory. The Bayliffe being a Butcher, was halfe amazed, & standing musing, at last he asked counsel of his neighbours, and they bade him set vp the knaue & spare not. So vp he went, and when he was vp, he loked about, and saw his two fellowes busie in the holes of the Butchers aprons, where they put all their money. To it, to it (quoth he) apace. The people laughed hartily to see him stand there. At last, when he saw that his

fellowes had sped their matters, and were going away, he said to the Bayliffe, Turne the Pillory about, and now I will come downe. So he laughing hartily, did. And when he was come downe, the Bayliffe sayd, Now by my fayth thou art a good fellow, and because thou hast made vs some sport, I will giue thee a Tester to drinke: and so thinking to take some money out of the hole of his apron, hee found there neuer a penny. Cockes armes (quoth the Bayliffe) my money is picked out of my apron: and then the rest of the Butchers beside swore they had lost theirs also. I hope (quoth the fellow) you doe not thinke that I haue it. No, by my ..th (quoth the Bayliffe) I know well enough thou hast it not: for thou wert on the Pillory all the while. Why, then no harme, no force (quoth the fellow) and so went his wayes.

How one at Kingston fayned himselfe dead, to trye what his wife would doe.

In Kingston, dwelt one Rawlins, newly maried, which to proone what his wife would doe, fayned himselfe dead, while she was in the backside, washing of her clothes, and and layd himselfe all along the flore. Wherevpon his wife comming suddenly in, thought that hee had bin dead indeed: but hauing laboured hard all the day, and being sore an hungred, shee stood musing with her selfe, whether it were best to lament his death, or to dine first: which motion of eating liked her best: wherevpon shee cut two or three collops of salt Bacon, and broyled them on the coales, and ate them vp: and being very hungry, shee forgot to drinke, but the saltnesse of the meat at last made her throat so harsh, that shee tooke a pot and went to draw some drinke: but one of her neighbours comming suddenly in, made her set down her pot, and as if her husband had but new falne downe, shee began to lament so heauily, and with such a noyse, that all the neighbours came running in, where they found her most pitifully

tifully bewayling the sudden death of her husband. Whereupon they began to comfort her, and told her, she must be content, for there was now no remedie. Alas, sayd she, Oh my swéet husband, what shall I doe? At which words, her husband lift vp his head, and sayd, Full ill, my swéet wife, except you goe quickly and drinke: for the salt Bacon I am sure hath almost choked you.

A knauish answere of an vnhappy countrey wench to a foolish yong fellow.

A Certayne idle headed young man, that loued to heare himselfe speake, though it were of matter to little purpose, riding vpon a fayre day to a market towne, ouertooke by chance, among other creatures of her own kind, an indifferent well fauored and well growne countrey wench, whom singling by her selfe as much as he could, he fel to commune with, in an odde maner of loue-making, when beginning very low, marking her new shod séete, hanging ouer her dossers, beganne with this commendation: Truly sister, you haue a very fine foot there. Yea sir (quoth ye wench) that I haue a couple. The yong man thinking to shew some little wit, in a scoffe replyed with this speech: But are they twinnes, sister? were they both borne at one time? No in deed sir (quoth the wench) there hath beene a man borne betwixt them. Wherewith her neighbours that rode by her, falling into a laughing, made him find, that she was a married wife: which being contrary to his expectation, being much troubled with her answere, with lacke of wit to reply, galloped away with a flea in his eare.

A flowting answere to a flowting question.

A Poore man, vpon a time comming into a market with a very leane horse, setting him néere vnto a company of fat

and fayre Geldings to be sold, was asked of a scoffing companion, how he sold his horse by the ell? Which the poore man taking something discontentedly, & yet not willing to quarrel with him, made him an answere fit for his question: when holding vp his horses taile, I pray you sir (quoth he) come into the shop, and you shall see.

A warning for tale-tellers.

I Read in the records of a certayne schoole, where faultes were reckoned vp all the week, to be payd vpon the Satterday, that an vnhappy boy, willing to haue one of his fellowes taste of such schoole-butter, as hee had often broke his fast with, one morning came to his master with this speech: Truly sir, you haue often beaten mee for looking off from my booke, and such a one scapeth without rebuke. Yea (quoth he) call him to me. Who no sooner came to him, but heard him his lesson. Which perfectly repeated, How now sirra (quoth he) to his accuser: how like you this geare? How did he looke from his booke, and say his lesson so well? Let me heare you: who was imperfect in many poynts. Well sir (quoth hee) how doe you know that your fellow did not looke vpon his booke? Marry sir (quoth he) I did watch him all the while. Then sir (quoth his fellow) I beseech you aske him who looked on his booke while he watched mee. Whereat his master smiling, tooke the accuser, and openly in the schoole whipped him well, first for his lesson, and after for his accusation.

Of a worshipfull Gentleman in Lincolneshire, and his man.

A Certayne Gentleman in Lincolneshire, being also a Iustice of Peace, had an olde seruant many yeres, called Adam Milford, who vpon a time came vnto his master, and desired him, in regard he had bene his

seruant

ſeruant ſo many yeeres, hee would now giue him ſomething to helpe him in his old age. Thou ſayeſt true (quoth his maſter) and I will tell thee what I will doe: Now ſhortly I am to ride vp to London, if thou wilt pay my coſts & charges by the way, I will giue thee ſhortly ſuch a thing, as ſhall be worth to thee an hundred pound. I am content (quoth Adam) and ſo payd for all their reckoning by the way. So being come to London, he put his maſter in mind of his former promiſe that he had made to him. What, did I promiſe thee any thing? I (quoth Adam) ý you did: for you ſaid, you would giue mee that that ſhould bee worth to me a hundred pound, for paying your charges to London. Let me ſee your writing (quoth his maſter.) I haue none (quoth Adam.) Then thou art like to haue nothing (quoth his maſter:) And learne this of mee, That when thou makeſt a bargayne with any man, looke thou take a writing, and beware how thou makeſt a writing to any man. This hath auayled mee an hundred pounds in my dayes. When Adam ſaw there was no remedy, he was content: but when they ſhould depart, Adam ſtayed behind his maſter, to reckon with his Hoſtis; and on his maſters Scarlet cloake borrowed ſo much money, as came to all their charges that hee had layd out by the way. His maſter had not ridden paſt two myles, but it began to rayne apace; where fore he called for his cloake. His other men made anſwere, that Adam was behind, and had it with him. So they ſhrowded them vnder a tree, till Adam came. When he came, his maſter ſayd all angerly, Thou knaue, come giue me my cloake: hall thou not ſerued me well, to let me be thus wet? Truely ſir (quoth Adam) I haue layd it to pawne for all your charges by the way. Why knaue, quoth he, didſt thou not promiſe to beare my charges to London? Did I, quoth Adam? I, quoth his maſter, that thou didſt. Let's ſee, ſhew me your writing of it, quoth Adam. Whereupon his maſter perceiuing he was ouer-reacht by his man, was fayne to ſend for his cloake againe, and pay the money.

How madde Coomes, when his wife was drowned, sought her against the streame.

COomes of Stapforth, hearing that his wife was drowned, comming from market, went with certayne of his friends to see if they could find her in the riuer: he contrary to all the rest, sought his wife against the streame: which they perceyuing, sayd, He looke the wrong way. And why so (quoth he?) Because (quoth they) you should looke downe the streame, and not against it. Nay, Zounds (quoth hee) I shall neuer find her that way: for shee did all things so contrary in her life time, that now she is dead, I am sure she will goe against the streame.

Of the Farmer in Norfolke, and his Phisicion.

A Certayne rich Farmer hauing layne long sicke in Norfolke, at last sent for a Phisicion from the next market towne: who when he came, hee felt his pulses, and viewed his water, and then told them, that he could by no meanes nor Phisike escape, the disease had so much power in his body, and so went his way. Within a while after, by Gods good helpe, who is the onely giuer of all health, the man escaped, and was well againe, and walking abroad, being still very weake and feeble, hee met with his Phisicion, who being very sore affrayd to see him, asked him, if he were not such a Farmer? Yes truly (quoth he) I am. Art thou aliue or dead (quoth hee?) Dead (quoth he) I am: and because I haue experiẽce of many things, God hath sent mee to take vp all Phisicions I can get: which made the Phisicion to looke as pale as ashes, for feare. Nay, feare not (quoth the Farmer) though I named all Phisicions, yet I meant thee for none: for I am sure, a verier Dunce liues

not

not this day, then thou art: and then I should bee a fole to take thée for one, that art not fit to come to any man, but to the dogges with thy physike: and so he left him: but the Physicion neuer left quaking, till hee was out of the sight of him.

How merry Andrew of Manchester serued an Vsurer.

MErry Andrew of Manchester, who is well knowne, meeting with three or foure of his companions on a Sunday, presently hee bade them home to dinner, yet hee neyther had meate nor money in his house. Well, but to his shifts he goeth, and went into an olde Vsurers kitchin, where he was very familiar, and priuily vnder his gowne he brought away the pot of meat that was sodden for the old misers dinner. When he came home, hee put out the meat, and made his boy scoure the pot, and sent him with it to the Vsurer, to borrow two groats on it, and bade the boy take a bill of his hand: which the boy did, and with the money bought beere and bread for their dinner. When the Vsurer should goe to dinner, his meat was gone: wherefore he all to beat his mayd, calling her whore. She sayd, there came no body but Andrew there all that day. Then they asked him. And he sayd, Hee had none. But at last they sayd, that he and no body else had the pot. By my fayth (quoth Andrew) I borrowed such a pot on a time, but I sent it home agayne: and so called his witnesse, and sayd, It is perilous to deale with men now adayes without writing: they would lay theft to my charge, if I had not his owne hand to shew: and so he shewed the Vsurers bill: whereat the Vsurer stormd, and all the rest fell a laughing.

How hee serued another that would haue put him downe in his merry sayings.

ANdrew once was at supper with his friends, among the company there was one that spited at his iests and merry conceits. After supper, they fell to reasoning among themselues, which was the most reuerent part of mans body. One sayd, The eye: another, the nose: a third sayd, the leg: but Andrew knowing that he that spited him, would name the contrary, sayd, The mouth was most reuerent of all. Nay (quoth the other) the part that we sit on is the most reuerent: and because they all marueyled why he should say so, he made this reason: That he was most honorable, that was first set, and the part that he named, was first set. Which saying contented them all, and grieued Andrew. The next day they all met againe, and Andrew comming last, found them sitting all together. And when he had saluted them all but his enemy, hee turned his back-side to him, and let a great fart in his face. At which the fellow being mightily angry, sayd, Walk knaue, with a mischiefe, where hast thou bin brought vp? Why disdaynest thou, quoth Andrew? if I had saluted thee with my mouth, thou wouldest haue saluted mee againe: and now when I salute thee with that part, that by thy owne saying is most honorable, thou callest me knaue. Then the company fell a laughing at this iest hartily.

The tale of the Blacke Moore.

IN the yere when fresh wits began to season themselues to abide weathers, it fel out, it is no matter where, that a certayne yong fellow, next neighbour to a fole, hauing more money in his purse, then he knew well how to vse, and yet willing to aduẽture a little, to gaine more, light into the acquaintance

quaintance of a notable crafty companion, who finding his humour, was not to learne how to fit it: and noting his foolish kind of fleering, when he came among the feminine gender, and how farre he would be in loue with mayd Marian, vpon the first measure of a Morris daunce, came one day to him very closely, and getting him to beare him company alone into the fields, there very soberly, in the way of much affection, (as he seemed to make shew of) told him, that it grieued him to see so proper a man spend his time so, without a companion fit for his person, meaning a wife: of which, if an owle would not serue his turne, it had bin pity any better creature should haue bin bestowed vpon him. Yet forsoth, in great secret he told him, & loked about, as though some body had heard him, that if he would be ruled by him, he would helpe him to such a wife, as all the world should not find a better for his purpose. For shee should be fayre, and wealthy, and wise, and what more, I know not: but she should be such a one, as he should haue cause to giue him thanks for. The young greene Gose somewhat shamefast, and yet foolish enough to harken to an idle tale, answered him, that though hee was not determined to marry, yet if he liked her, and she him, hee did not know what would come to passe: but hee would bestow a quart of wine to haue a sight of her. Not to make a long tale of a little or nothing, without many hummes or haes it was agreed betwixt them, that a day should be set downe when the meeting should be. The place was appointed, the parties were acquainted, the plot was layd, and the matter performed. But while the gose was gaping for one bayt, he was catcht with another. For the cunning rascall, intending to make himselfe merry with his money, told him he must be finely apparrelled, and bestow a supper or two, in shew of a franke mind: but when he had her once, then let him do as he list. The fole already in a net, began to tangle himselfe brauely, made himself new apparrel according to the fashion, gaue money to bestow vpon a supper or two: where met him a fine boy drest woman-like, to whom he made such loue, that a Dog would not

abide to heare it. The counterfeit young mistris, with kinde words, and knauish wiles, finding the length of his foot, gate many tokens of his loue; as Gloues, Skarfes, and such like, besides a Ring or two, and a bracelet: all which he did bestow so louingly, that he must nedes be vsed like himselfe, and so he was: for nothing was refused that came so gently to passe. But after many kind meetings, in the end it was agreed betwixt them, that in a friends house of his, the matter should be made vp: which being little better then a bawdy house, it serued the turne as well as could be. There they met, and being both agreed, vpon assurance of eche others loue, to bed they should go that night, and be maried shortly after. Wel, that night there lacked no good cheere, nor wine to make the heart merry: which being taken in full cups, wrought the matter as they would haue it: for after they had well supped, and sate a while by a good fire, the good Asse fell aslepe: in which, being layd in his bed, in stead of the fayre boy, they had layd a blacke Moore wench by him, with whom I know not how he handled the matter: but in the morning, seeing what a sweet bed-fellow he had gotten, suddenly starting out of the bed, ran to his clothes, and taking them in his hand, ran out into another chamber, crying that he was vndone, for he had lien with the vglyest thing that euer was, and he feared it was the deuill. In which feare blessing himselfe, as from spyites, running out of the house, with the expence of his money, almost losse of wits, and laught at of all that knew him, like a good Woodcocke, fled away so farre, that I neuer heard more what became of him.

Of a Doctor and his man.

A Doctor that was newly commenst at Tambridge, charged his seruant, that he had not to say any thing, but that he should aske of him. Within a while after, he inuited diuers of his friends to dinner, and sent his man to desire another Doctor to come and dine with him.

The

The fellow went, and the Doctor told him that he could not come: for he had great business to dispatch that day. So home he comes, and sayes nothing. When the guests were all come, they stayd from going to dinner, till the other Doctor came. When they had stayd till two of the clock, he asked his man if he had bidden him come to dinner? Yes (quoth his man) that I did. And why doth he not then come? Marry, he sayd, that he had other businesse, and he could not come. Why didst thou not tell me this before (quoth his master?) Why sir (quoth he) because you did not aske me.

Of one that beleeued his wife better then others.

A Man, whose wife was no better then she should be, nor so neither, his friends counselled him to looke better vnto her. The man went home, and sharply rebuked his wife, and told her what his friends sayd of her. She knowing that periury was no worse then adultery, with weeping and swearing denyed the same, and told her husband that they deuised those tales in enuy, because they saw them liue so quietly. With these words her husband was content and well pleased. Yet another of his friends was at him agayne, and sayd, that he did not well, to let her haue her liberty so much. To whome hee answered, I pray you tell mee whether knoweth my wiues faults best, she or you? They sayd, she. And she that I beleeue better then you all, sayth you lye all like knaues.

The Hartfordshire mans answere to the Abbot of London.

THe Abbot riding in Visitation, came to a place where they had newly builded their steeple, and put out their belles to be new cast. The Abbot comming neere the townes end, and hearing no belles to ring, in a chafe

ſayd to one of the townſmen, Haue you no belles in your ſteeple? No, my Lord, quoth he. Then ſayd the Abbot, Sell away your ſteeple. Why ſo, and pleaſe your Lordſhip? Quoth he, Becauſe it ſtandeth voyd. Marry, ſayd the man, we may well alſo ſell away another thing in our Church, as well as that, and better too. What is that (quoth the Abbot?) Mary our Pulpit (quoth he) for this ſeuen yeere haue we not had a Sermon in it, nor I thinke neuer ſhall, but belles I am ſure we ſhall haue ſhortly.

Of one that loſt his purſe.

A Countreyman comming vp to the Tearme, by miſfortune loſt his purſe: and becauſe the ſumme was great, he ſet vp billes in diuers places of London, that if any man had found ſuch a purſe, and would reſtore it againe, he ſhould haue very well for his paynes. A Gentleman of the inner Temple, wrote vnder one of his billes, that hee ſhould come to his chamber, and did write where. So when hee came to the place, the Gentleman aſked him, firſt, what was in his purſe? Secondly, what Countreyman he was? And thirdly, what was his name? Sir (quoth he) twenty pounds was in my purſe. I am halfe a Welſhman, and Iohn vp Ianken is my name. Iohn vp Ianken (quoth the Gentleman) I am glad I know thy name: for ſo long as I liue, thou nor none of thy name, ſhall haue my purſe to keepe. And ſo farewell gentle Iohn vp Ianken.

Of madde conceited Bulkin.

BVlkin, well knowne in diuers places for his mad conceits, and his couzenage, vpon a time came into Kent, to Sittingborne: and there in diuers villages thereabout ſet vp billes, that all ſorts of people, young and olde, that would come to Sittingborne, on ſuch a day, they ſhould finde a man there, that would giue a remedy for all diſeaſes:

diſeaſes: and alſo would tell them what would happen vnto any of them in fiue or ſixe yeares after: and he would deſire but two pence apiece of any of them. Whereupon people came of all ſorts, and from all places: ſo that he gathered of the people that came, to the value of twenty pounds: and hee had prouided a Stage, and ſet it vp, and placed a chayre where he would ſit: and ſo they being all come in, and euery one ſet in order, he comes to the gate, and takes the money from them that gathered it; and bids them looke that good rule be kept, and ſo they did: alſo he bid them by and by ſound the drumme, and then he would begin his Orations. Hee, when they were gone, with al haſte gets him to the backſide, and there hauing his golding, gets vpon his backe, and away towards Rocheſter rides he, as faſt as euer he could gallop. Now they thinking hee had beene preparing of things in a readineſſe, ſounded the drumme. The Audience looked ſtill when he would come: and ſtaying one, two, three howres, nay more, thought ſure they were couzened. Whereupon one of the company ſeeing a paper in the chayre on the ſtage, tooke it, wherein was written:

Now you haue heard the ſound of the drumme,
You may all depart like fooles as you come.

Whereupon all of them falling to curſing and ſwearing, were fayne to depart like fooles indeed.

Of the rich Widdow of Abington.

THis Widdow deſired a goſſip of hers, that ſhee would helpe her to a husband, not for any carnall deſire ſhee had, but onely to keepe her goods, and ſee to her lands, which is hard (ſayth ſhe) for me to doe my ſelfe. The woman, for all her talke, yet knew ſhee ſpake againſt her mind: and therefore three or foure dayes after, ſhee came to her, and ſayd, Goſſip, I haue found an husband for you, that is very wiſe and worldly giuen: but he lacks the thing you wot of, whereof I am ſure you care not at all. Marry, quoth

the widdow, let the deuill take that husband, if he will: for though I desire not the bodily pleasure, yet I would not haue him lack that thing, which if we should fall out, should make vs friends agayne.

Of a Lawyer and his man.

A Worshipfull Gentleman, being a Counseller, keeping a very good house, kept a Gentlemans sonne to be his Clarke, and to wayt vpon his table. So one day hauing store of guests, there wanted bread on the table. Hee beckened to his man to fetch some: who not vnderstanding him, came to him, and sayd, Sir, what would you haue? Wost not, knaue (quoth hee) there is no bread on the table? therefore fetch some. There was enough euen now (quoth his man) if they would haue let it alone, and not haue eaten it vp. Another time, his guests hauing supt, and ready to depart, hee bade his man draw a cup of wine, to make them drinke before they went. The fellow comming vp with the gilt cup couered, his master beckened him to take off the couer. He not vnderstanding, sayd, Master, what would you haue? Why, knaue, take off the couer, quoth he, off the cup. Then hold you the candle, sayd his man: for I cannot do two things at once.

How finely one sold two loades of hay.

IN London dwelt a mad conceited fellow, which with his witte liued with Gallants, and dominéerd with good fellowes. Not long agoe, in hay harueſt, he gets a Pitchforke on his necke, went forth towards Islington in the morning, and méetes with two loads of hay, comming towards

wards the City to be sold: for the which he bargayned with them that owed the same, for thirty shillings. Whither shall we bring them, quoth they? To the Swan, by Smithfield, sayd he. And so went his way, and left them, and to the Swan he went, to the goodman of the house, and asked if hee would buy two loads of hay? Yes, quoth the In-keeper, where bee they? Heere they come, quoth he. What shall I pay, quoth the In-keeper? Foure Nobles quoth make-shift. But at last they were agreede for twenty shillings. When they were come, hee bads them vnload the hay. So while they were vnloading, he came to the Inne-holder, and sayd, I pray you let me haue my money: for while my men vnload, I will buy some stuffe to haue home with mee. The Inne-holder was content, and gaue him his money. And so hee went his way. When the men had vnloaded their hay, they came and demaunded their money. I haue payd your master, quoth the Inne-keeper. What master, quoth they? Marry, quoth he, he that bade you bring the hay hither. We know him not (quoth they.) Nay I (quoth hee) but with him I bargayned, and him haue I payd: with you I medles not: and therefore goe seeke him if you will. And so the poore men were couzened of their hay.

Of a yong Gentleman, that would haue kissed a mayd with a long nose.

A Young Gentleman, none of the wisest, would haue kissed a faire maid, that had something a long nose, who sayd, How should I kisse you, your nose is so long, that our lips cannot meet? The mayd waxing angry in mind, sayd, If you cannot kisse my mouth, sir, for my nose, you may kisse me there whereas I haue neuer a nose. Shall,

Of one that fell off a tree at Greenested.

There was a Husbandman that dwelt at Greenested, that was gathering his fruit, and being hard at work, forgot his footing, and downe he comes tumbling, and with his fall brake one of his ribs. To comfort him came a merry man his neighbour, who sayd, hee would teach him such a rule, that if he would follow it, he would never fall off a tree agayne. Marry, sayd the hurt man, I would you had taught me that rule before I fel: nevertheless, because it may happen to profit me another time, let mee heare it. Then sayd the other, Take heed that you never goe faster downe, then you goe up, but descend as softly, and you shall never fall.

Of a Scholer and a ploughman.

A Certayne Scholler beeing in Bedfordshire, a rude ploughswayne reproued him for something, saying, that he could say all his prayers with a whole minde, and stedfast intention, not thinking on any thing else. Goe to, sayd the Scholler, Say one Pater noster to the end, and thinke on no other thing, and I will giue thee my horse. That shall I doe, quoth the ploughman. And so he began to say, Our Father which art in heauen, till he came to, Hallowed be thy name: and then his thought moued him to aske this question, Yea, but shall I haue the bridle and saddle too? And so he lost his bargayne.

How drunken Mullins of Stratford dreamed he found gold.

Mullins being drunke, and lying in his bed, dreamed that the Deuill led him into a field to digge for Gold:

and

and when he had found the Gold, the Deuil sayd, Thou canst not carry it away now, but marke the place, that thou mayst fetch it another time. What mark shal I make, qd. Mullins? With Pilgrime salue (quoth the Deuill) for that shall cause euery man to shun the place, and for thée it shall be a speciall marke. Where he did so. And when he awaked, he perceiued he had foulye berayed his bed. Thus betweene stinke and dirt vp he rose, and made him ready to go forth. And last of all, he put on his hat, wherein also the cat had shit: so, for great stink, hee threwe away his hat, and was fayne to wash his head. Thus all his golden dreame was turned to dirt.

Of a young woman at Barnet, that sorrowed for her husbands death.

IN Barnet was a young woman, that when her husband lay a dying, sorrowed out of all measure, for feare that shée should lose him. Her father came to her, willing her to be contented: for he had prouided her another husband, a far more godly man. But she did not onely continue in her sorrow, but was also greatly displeased, that her father made any motion to her of any other husband. As soone as her other husband was buried, and the Sermon was done, and they were at dinner, betweene sobbing and weeping, she rounded her father in the eare, and sayd, Father, where is the young man, that you told me should be my husband? Whereat her father suddenly fell a laughing.

A poore beggers answer to a rich Citizen.

A Poore begger, that was foule, blacke, and lothsome to behold, came to a rich Citizen and asked his almes. To whom the Citizen sayd, I pray thée get thée hence from mée, for thou lookest as though thou camest out of hell. The poore man perceyuing hee could get nothing, answered,

swered, Forsooth sir, you say troth, I came out of hell indeed. Why diddest thou not tarry there still, quoth the Citizen? Marry sir (quoth the begger) there is no roome for such poore beggers as I am: all is kept for such Gentlemen, as you are.

The subtilty of a Lawyer repayd with the like subtilty.

There was an vnthrift in London, that had receiued of a Marchant certayne wares, which came to fifty pounds, to pay at three moneths, and at three moneths: but when he had it, he consumed and spent it all: so that at the sixe moneths end, there was not any left to pay the Marchant: wherefore the Marchant arrested him. When he saw there was no other remedy, but either to pay the debt, or goe to prison, he sent to a subtill Lawyer, and asked his counsell how he might cleare him selfe of that debt. What wilt thou giue me (quoth he) if I doe? Fiue markes (quoth the other) and heere it is: and as soone as you haue done, you shall haue it. Well, sayd the Lawyer, but thou must be ruled by my counsell, and doe thus: When thou commest before the Iudge, whatsoeuer he sayeth vnto thée, answere thou nothing, but cry, Bea, still, and let me alone with the rest. So when he came before the Iudge, he sayd to the Debter, Doest thou owe this Marchant so much money? Bea (quoth he.) What, beast (quoth he?) answere to that I aske thée. Bea (quoth hee) againe. Why how now, quoth the Iudge? I thinke this fellow hath gotten a shéepes tongue in his head: for he answeres in the shéepes language. Why sir, quoth the Lawyer, doe you thinke this Marchant that is so wise a man, would bee so foolish, as to trust this Ideot with fifty pounds worth of ware, that can speake neuer a word? no sir I warrant you. And so perswaded the Iudge to cast the Marchant in his owne suite. And so the Iudge departed, and the Court brake vp. Then the Lawyer came to his

Clyent,

Client, and asked him his money, since his promise was performed, and his debt discharged. Bea (quoth he.) Why, thou needst not cry Bea any longer, but pay me my money. Bea (quoth he) againe. Why, thou wilt not serue me so, I hope (quoth the Lawyer, now I haue vsed thee so kindly. But nothing, but Bea, could master Lawyer get for his paines, and so was faine to depart.

A tale of a merry Christmas Carroll, sung by women.

There was sometime an olde Knight, who being disposed to make himselfe merry, in a Christmas time, sent for many of his Tenants, and poore neighbours, with their wiues to dinner: when hauing made meat to be set on the table, would suffer no man to drinke, till hee that was master ouer his wife, should sing a Carroll, to excuse all the company. Great niceneſſe there was, who should be the Musician, now the Cuckow time was so farre off. Yet with much adoe, looking one vpon another, after a dry hemme or two, a dreaming companion drew out as much as hee durſt, towards an ill-fashioned ditty. When hauing made an end, to the great comfort of the beholders, at last it came to the womens table, where likewise commaundement was giuen, that there should no drinke be touched, till shee that was master ouer her husband, had sung a Christmas Carrol: whereupon they fell all to such a singing, that there was neuer heard such a catterwalling piece of muſike. Whereat the knight laughed so hartily, that it did him halfe as much good, as a corner of his Christmas pye.

A ieſt of a Felon at Oxford.

The Aſſiſes being at Oxford, among the reſt, there was a Felon that had the benefit of the Clergy, to haue his booke: but he could read neuer a word. Which a ſcholer

perceiuing, ſtood behind, and prompt him with his verſe that he was to reade: and comming to the latter end, he held his thumbe vpon the booke, that the ſcholler could not ſee: wherefore he bade him ſoftly, Take away thy thumbe: he thinking that the ſame was ſo in the booke, ſayd aloud, Take away thy thumbe. Which the Iudge perceiuing, bade take him away. And ſo he was condemned: and being vpon the ladder, ready to doe, and the rope about his necke, he ſayd, Haue at yon Paſſe, that growes yonder. And ſo leaped off the gallows.

Of a Gentleman of Norfolke and his Hoſt.

A Gentleman of Norfolke, as hee was riding towards London in the winter time; and ſitting by the fire ſide with his Hoſt, vntill ſupper could be made ready, there happened a Rabbit to be at the fire a roſting, which the Gentlemã perceiued to be very leane, as he thought. Quoth he vnto his Hoſt, We haue Rabbits in our country, that one will drip a pottle, and baſte it ſelfe. The In-kæper wondred with himſelfe, and did thinke it to be a lye, but would not ſay ſo, for maners ſake, and becauſe he was his gueſt: but thinking to requite him, Now truly, quoth he, it is very ſtrãge: but I can tell you of as ſtrange a thing as that. Which the Gentleman very deſirous to heare: Quoth he, I had as fine a Grayhound, as any was in England: and if I had happened to goe abroad to my grounds, the Grayhound would alway go with me. And ſometime there would ſtart out a Hare before me, which my Grayhound would quickly catch. It fortuned that my dog died, and for very loue that I bare to him, I made me a bottle of his ſkin, to carry drinke withall. So, one time in hay harueſt, my folks being making of hay in my grounds, and the weather hote, I filled my bottle with beere, to carry to them, leſt they ſhould lack drinke. And as I was going along, there ſtart a Hare out of a buſh before me; and as it was my cuſtome, I cried, Now, now, now. My bottle leaping from my girdle, ran and catcht the Hare. What, quoth the Gentleman, me thinks that ſhould be a lie. Truly ſir, ſaid

the

the In-keeper, so did I thinke yours was. The Gentleman perceiuing that he was requited for his kindnesse, held himselfe contented.

A tale of a Printer and a Gentlewoman.

AS a merry conceited Printer was going thorow S. Martins in London, with a friend of his, being merrily disposed, Quoth hee, I will lay a quart of wine with you, that I will goe and kisse yonder Gentlewoman, who is comming on the other side of the way. Wilt thou, quoth the other? and I will lay it with thee. The wager being layd, presently this Printer crosses the way, and met this Gentlewoman, and with cap & bended knee salutes her, and taking her by the hand, kissed her. The Gentlewoman somewhat abashed at this sudden salutation, and could not call to mind where she had seene or known him: Truly sir, sayd she (and made a low curtsie) you must pardon me: for as yet I do not know you. Truly, nor I you, mistris: but I hope there is no hurt done. So saluting her, went his way, leaving the Gentlewoman much ashamed, and much laughing to the beholders.

A tale of a Gentleman and his man.

A Gentleman vpon a time hauing a man that could write and read well, rebuked him one day for idlenes, saying, If I had nothing to doe, I would for the better comfort of my wit, set downe all the fooles I know. The fellow making little answere, tooke his pen and inke, and as his master had wished him, fell to setting downe a Catalogue of all the fooles that he was well acquainted with: among whom, and first of all, he set downe his master, who reading his name, would needs know the nature of his folly. Marry (quoth he) in lending your Cozin twenty pound this other day: for I thinke he will neuer pay you. Yea, but (quoth his master) what if he do pay me? Then (quoth his man) I will put out your name, and put downe his for a fools.

A deceyt of the hope of the couetous, with a Turnep.

THe King of Fraunce, Charles the fift, being presented by a poore Gardiner, with a Turnep of a huge greatnesse, gaue him for his reward fiue hundred crownes, giuing him charge to lay it vp, and keepe it safely for him, till hee did call for it. Which bounty being noted of all his Court, and chiefly obserued by one couetous rich officer of his house, caused him, in hope of some greater recompence for a greater present, to present his Maiesty, with a faire and goodly horse: which the King thankfully receiuing, noting his miserable nature, and that his gift rather did proceede from hope of gayne, then good will, called for the Turnep; wherewith he rewarded the miserable Asse: at which, he no lesse fretted, then all that saw it, hartily laughed. And so I wish all such churles to be serued.

A pretty tale of a Foxe and an Asse.

IN the time out of mind, when men woote they cared not what, I find a discourse of a Lyon, which being King of beasts, vpon some, I know not what cause, called a Parliament, whereto a great number of his subiects, being come as neere to his presence as they durst, hee caused a proclamation to be pronounced to the whole assembly, that what beast soeuer bare a horne in his head, should not after that day presume to set foote within that chiefe wood of his, without his especiall license, and whosoeuer did violate his commaund, should be held as a traytor, and suffer death, without further iudgement. It fell out within few dayes after that, a Foxe hauing one night met with a brood of young Geese, besides Rabbets and Chickens, and hauing drawne them to a bush, vnder which he had layd them farre from the high way, chaunced in the morning to espye a poore Asse comming towards

wards him, to whom, after a few salutations, and questions touching his passage that way, he tolde the summarie of the aforesayd proclamation: who answered him, that it nothing touched him, for that he had no hornes. Oh, but (quoth the Fore) take heede, thou hast long eares, and if the Lyon will say, that they be hornes, then they are as ill as hornes: but if thou wilt helpe me to carry a little poultry that I haue taken heere for the Court, I will warrant thee to goe and come safe. The poore Asse, whose backe was made for the purpose, to beare the Fores burden, followed his counsell, and tooke vp the poultry, which the Fore made shift to lay vpon his backe: wherewith hee was no sooner come to the wood side, but a Wolfe espying of him, ran towards him, of whom not a little afrayd, he flung downe his burden, with this out-cry: Let neuer an Asse follow a Fore, lest he meet with a Wolfe at his iourneyes end.

How a woman serued a Glutton, but yet he was too good for her.

NOt vnlike to Mother Bunch our Hostesse, an olde woman in Suffer, that brewed good Ale, there dwelt, that had euery weeke a lusty eater, and as tall a drinker, vsed to her house: but when he had serued himselfe, he would not pay any thing at all. The woman grieuing to be thus vsed still, knew not what remedy to haue: for with his swaggering hee domineerd, because hee had bene a souldier. One Tuesday morning he comes thither, saying, Hostesse, what shall we haue to breakefast? I haue nothing of your price (quoth she) at this time. Whereupon he began to sweare so pitifully, that he so feared the woman, that she set a dish of sweet butter before him, that shee had kept for others, that were to come thither: whereof he began to eate so greedily, that she feared he would eate vp all. And thereupon she stept to the doore, as though one had knockt, and came in againe, and sayd to him, Sir, there is one at the doore would speake

with you. Whereupon hee went to the doore. In the meane space hee thrust his knife in the fire, and heat it almost red hote. In comes hee againe, saying, there was no body there. Then belike he is gone, quoth she. Hee taking his knife againe, would haue cut the butter, but it fell still from the knife: whereat he wondring, sayd, Hostesse, I marualle what ailes my knife! Truely, Sir, your knife blushes to see his master so vnreasonable. In faith, sayd he, if this knife blush, his fellow here yet looketh pale: and so drawes out his other knife, and eates vp the rest of the butter cleane.

The answere of a Gentlemans man to his Master.

A Worshipfull Gentleman in London, hauing on a time inuited diuers of his friends to supper to his house, & being at supper, the second course comming in, the first was one of the Gentlemans owne men, bringing a Capon, and by chance stumbling at the portall doore, the Capon flew out of the platter, and ran along the boords to the vpper end of the table where the Master of the house sate, who making a iest of it, sayd, By my faith, it is well, the Capon is come first, my man will come anon too, I hope. By and by came his man, and takes vp the Capon, and layes it in the platter, and sets it on the boord. I thanke you sir, quoth his Master, I could haue done so my selfe. I, quoth his man, tis a small matter, sir, for one to doe a thing, when he sees it done before his face.

Certaine sullen speeches of Diogenes to Alexander.

Diogenes walking on a time in a Churchyard neere vnto a high way, that lay in a valley, espied Alexander with a great traine a farre off vpon a hill, comming downe towards that towne, where the Church stode. Whereupon, minding to put Alexander out of such proud humours, as he doubted of him at that time to be possessed with,

rau

ran in all haste vnto the Sexten of the Church, for the key of the doore, within which lay the dead mens skulles, and bones, which had beene digged vp: where taking out as many as he could well carrie in his armes, hee laid them one by one, in the way where Alexander was to passe: who being come somewhat neere vnto him, and seeing his paines, in laying of the bones, asked what he meant by it: Why (quoth Diogenes) I haue heard that here haue beene as well the bones of Princes, as poore people, buried here in this Churchyard: and now I haue beene laying them together, to see, if I could finde any difference, whereby I might finde which were the Princes, and which the beggers: but truely they are so like one an other, that I find no difference at all. Well (quoth Alexander) this is one of thy dogged humors: but how dareſt thou thus trouble me in my time of pleasure, knowing that I can take thy life from thee, if I list? Why (quoth Diogenes) doe thou know, that I will die in spight of thy teeth, and therefore care not for thy threats, knowing death to bee the worſt that can come of them, and my offence no greater then this in deseruing of them. Which answere Alexander well noting, knowing his nature, left him to his fullen humors.

Of a drunken fellow that fell in the fire.

THere was a notable drunkard of Rochester, whom his wife perswaded as much as in her lay, to leaue that sinne: but the more shee spake, the worse hee was, & because she controuled him, he would al to beat her. So she let him alone: and because his vse was still to stay out till almost midnight, she would goe to bed, and bid her maid tarry vp for him, and make a good fire: and so shee did. One night when he came home, the maide let him in, and he stoode by the fire and warmed himselfe: but his head beeing too heauie for his body, downe he fell in the fire all along. The maid ran crying, Oh, Mistresse, Mistresse, my Master is fallen into the fire. No force, mayd (quoth she) let him take his pleasure in his owne house a Gods name, where he will himselfe.

A pretty tale of a Foxe and a Goose.

In the time when birds and beastes could speake, and the windes would carry many tales thorow the wood, as it is written by some idle head, there came a Foxe out of a wood, vnto a countrey house, there nereto adioyning, where finding a brode Gose, within a kind of open penne, saluted her in this maner: How doe you, sister? I heard you were not well of late, which made me come to visit you, as one, who would be glad to doe you any good that lay in his poore power. The Gose sitting ouer her young brod crowding, made him this answere: Truly, I am not wel, yet I thinke, I and mine should doe much better, if you would not so often come to visite vs: yet for that I haue a payne in my backe, I pray you come in and feele how it is swelled, that you may the better teach me what to apply vnto it. The Foxe very glad of this vnlooked for kindnesse, hoping to haue that he came for, put his head no sooner within the doore, but a dog lying closly hidden, caught him by the nose, and biting off a piece of his chappe, with a sudden snatch let him go. The poore Foxe making no little haste home to his borough, no sooner came among his fellow Foxes, but with great sighs told them, that he was bitten with a Gose, which the bitch-fox hearing, with an open mouth ran at him, and beat him out of the hold, with this shamefull reproche: Go coward, bite her agayne, thou shalt neuer come within my borough, to be bitten of a Gose, and bring away neuer a feather?

A witty answere of a Magistrate to a malicious accuser of an offender.

A Malicious fellow, willing to bring a neighbour of his vnto all the disgrace he could deuise, and shrewdly suspecting him, to haue more then a moneths mind to a fine mistres nere vnto him, oftentimes watching his going

going in, and comming out of her house. One day among other in the euening, noting his long stay, suspected that there was somewhat to doe more then all the Parish was acquainted with, and therefore seing the maide gone forth vpon some errand, being very earely in the morning, suddenly crept in with a companion of his, and take them together at their exercise: which being glad of, and that he had witnesse to make his matter good, runnes to the Magistrate of the Citie, who had to deale with such persons, and such cases, and told him as much as he had seene: with, oh Sir, I assure you he is a perilous man for a woman, and to tell you the troth, we take him in bed with her: what say you to such a fellow? The Magistrate somewhat allyed vnto the young man, and wishing rather a secret amendment, then an open reprehension, gaue him this answere: Truely, for the matter, it is not well: but for being taken in bed with her, in truth, I can thinke no otherwise, but hee was a sluggard: I know not what to say to him. The accuser seing the people smile, and himselfe mocked with this speech, did no further aggrauate the matter, but with a flea in his eare, went away with his malicious humor.

Of King Henrie, and the Countrey-man.

KIng Henry ryding a hunting, in the Countie of Kent, he came by chance to a great gate, that he must needs passe through, and in the way there stode a Ploughman, to whom the King sayd: I prethee, good fellow, open the gate. The fellow perceiuing it was the King, stode like an Image, and said: No, and it shall please your Grace, (quoth hee) I am not worthy to bee in that office; but I will fetch Walter Cooper, that dwelleth but two miles hence, and he shall open you the gate. And so ran away, as fast as euer he could.

Of the olde man of Monmouth, that gaue his sonne all his goods in his life time.

IN Monmouth dwelt an ancient man, of fayre possessions and great lands, hauing but one sonne to enioy all his substance. His sonne being married, he gaue him all that he had, and so would liue free from all worldly matters in his olde age, with his sonne in his owne house. After the deed of gift was made, a while the olde man sate at the vpper end of the table: afterwards they set him lower, about the middle of the table: next, at the tables end: and then among the seruants. And last of all, they made him a couch behind the doore, and couered him with olde sackcloth, where, with griefe and sorrow the olde man dyed. When the olde man was buried, the young mans eldest childe sayd vnto him: I pray you father, giue me this olde sackcloth. What wouldst thou doe with it, sayd his father? Forsooth, sayd the boy, it shall serue to couer you, as it did my olde graundfather.

How a woman, to hide a small fault, shewed a greater.

A Woman at Romford had for some cause shauen her head, and newly as shee had put off her kerchiefe off her head, one of her neighbours called for her hastily into the streete. When her neighbour saw her so, she blamed her for comming abroad bare-headed. Shee remembring her selfe, whipt vp her clothes from behinde her, ouer her head. And so to hyde her head, shee shewed her bare tayle.

How

How a madde man in Glocestershire answered a Gentleman.

IN Glocestershire dwelt one that cured frantike mẽ in this maner: When their fit was on them, he would put them in a gutter of water, some to the knées, some to the middle, and some to the necke, as the disease was on them. So one that was well amended, standing at the gate, by chaunce, a Gentleman came riding by with his Haukes, and his Hounds. The fellow called him to him, and sayd, Gentleman, whither goe you? On hunting, quoth the Gentleman. What doe you with all those Kytes and Dogges? They be Haukes and Hounds, quoth the Gentleman. Wherefore keepe you them, quoth the other? Why, quoth hee, for my pleasure. What doe they cost you a yeere to keepe them? Fourty pounds, quoth the Gentleman. And what doe they profit you, quoth hee? Some ten pounds (quoth the Gentleman.) Get thée quickly hence, quoth the fellow: for if my master finde thée heere, he will put thée into the gutter up to the throat.

Of an Hermet by Paris, that lay with all the chiefest Gentlewomen in the Countrey.

THis notable knaue, that vnder colour of holynesse, enticed all the chiefest Matrones of the Countrey to folly; at last, his doings were detected and knowne, and he was brought before the Duke of Anioy, which to beare the number of them for his disport, called his Secretary to write them downe. The Secretary bade

him recount them. The Hermet named to the number of xxvii. of the Dukes seruants wiues, and others, and then stode still and sayd nothing. Is there no more, quoth the Duke? No, and it shall like your Grace, quoth the Hermet. Tell troth, quoth the Secretarie, for if thou doest not, thou shalt be sharply punished. Then sayd the Hermet, sighing, To make vp the xxviii. write thine owne wife, in the number. Whereupon, the Secretarie for very griefe, let fall his pen. And the Duke, laughing heartily, sayd, I am glad, that he that with so great pleasure, hath heard the faultes of other mens wiues, should now come into the same number himselfe.

The miserable niggardize of a Iustice.

TO conclude, with this miserable Iustice, who came to London, to the Terme: And lying in Fleet-street, a companie of excellent Musicians, in a morning, played very earely at his chamber. But he being loth to bestow his money so vainely, bade his man tell them, hee could not as then heare their Musike, for he lamented for the death of his mother. Wherefore they went their way, for their hope was deceiued. A Gentleman, a friend of his in London, hearing the same, came to comfort him, and asked him when his mother dyed? Fayth (quoth hee) some xvi. yeeres agoe. When his friend vnderstood his deceit, he laughed heartily.

The end of the Tales.

Here

Here beginne the Gulles.

The first Gull, vpon the wager of the Horse and the Cowe for good trauell.

THere was sometime, not many yéeres sinee, a merry conceited man, of what profession, I doe not well remember, who hauing occasion to take poste from some hauen Towne néere the Sea, came to the Maior of the Towne, to complaine of the Constable of the Towne, for his little honestie in prouiding him such ill horses, knowing the nature of his businesse, and the haste it required. The Maior loking vpon them, as one that had not often made any posting iourneyes, tolde him, that though they were not so good, as he had séene, yet they would serue the turne well ynough, and that as then he thought the Towne would yéelde him no better. Whereupon the poster told him, that if hee were no better furnished, that in his Countrey a man would teach a young Cowe, to carry him further in a day, then the best horse in that Towne: and for a néede hée could doe as much there: and thereupon hée would lay twenty poundes. The Maior discontented with his speech, tolde him he would lay the wager, take money in earnest, the wordes were set down, witnes set to their hands, that in xxiiii. houres he would so dyet a young Cow, ỹ she should carry him further in a day, then the best horse in the Shire. The Cow was brought into a stable, hey, and water set to her, & in the morning when he should ride, a horse brought thither to the place, which presently he would haue bound to the Cowe: which being too heauie for the Cowe to carry, they all found the deceite: and the pore Maior béeing made a good Gull, was forced to confesse his folly, and to giue the Poster a good piece of money, to be rid of his wager.

The second Gull, vpon the wager of leaping.

A Certaine yong well limmed, broad shouldred, and milposte-legged yong man, who (it should seeme) with following of hounds, was vsed to leaping of ditches: and so with vse grew to be held the captaine leaper of that side of the Countrey. One day among other, wherein games came about the countrey; best, second, and third, a great assembly of the youth of diuers Parishes striuing before their best beloues, who had the lightest paire of heeles, put in their peeces of money, each one for the best, or the rest, as it fell out. This gallant yonker aduancing himselfe, beeing vntrust for the purpose, offers any man a foote before him, for the price of a quarter of the best malt in the countrey. But while no man would meddle with him, one mad-headed fellow standing by him, suddenly stept to him, and told him, that if hee might chuse his ground there vpon the ground before him, that he would aduenture vpon the aduantage of a foote before him, at the vprising or standing, he would leape with him for fortie shillings. The wager was layd, the money put into a bore, and the witnesses came to see the leaping: when he that tooke the foote before him, tooke his ground iust before a great Elme tree, that grew on the greene hard by: where beeing able to leape no further then the tree, the other finding himselfe deceiued, was contented to lose part of his money, to learne him better wit: and so like a good Gull went his way.

The third Gull, vpon a wager of going as fast as a horse, and go all one way.

A Dapper yong fellow, vpon a time hauing bought him a pretty ambling gelding, was for certain daies almost neuer off from his backe: and riding him no long iourney, but as it were betwixt London and Mile-end, in

the view of many people, willing to make shewe of his horse, or horsemanship, sitting as vpright as a picture of Rye dowe, a subtill companion of his acquaintance, meaning to make a Gull of his mastership, told him it was a pretty Nagge, but hee was but slow paced, and that hee would lay fiue pounds, that he would go as farre in a day on foote, as hee should ryde his horse, and goe both one way. The fine and all so fine, beeing much moued, to heare his horse so disgraced, accepted his offer, layd the wager, & they put the money into a mans hands of good worth, that stode by. Which done, the merry fellow standing in the high way, went backwards. Which the horseman assaying to do, not vsed to those kind of tricks, his horse rising aloft, fell backwards with him, with danger of his life: when rising vp, and seeing the other still going backewards, called to him, and with confession of losse, taking backe what hee would giue him, remayned a good Gull for his labour.

The fourth Gull, vpon a wager, to hang himselfe.

VPon a time, I haue forgotten when, in a place out of minde, met a company of good fellowes, which beeing likely to bee some Inne, while the people were all set at dinner, came in an old rich Farmer of the Country, who beeing well lyned in his purse, and therefore might haue the merrier heart, was so full of talke at dinner, that scarce any man else was heard at the table. Which a Scholler, sitting among them, wel obseruing, and withall seeing him wel tickled in the head with the good drinke, vpon the sudden fell into this speech with him: Honest man, I pray you pardon me, if I say any thing that may offend you; I am sory to see the euill that is towards you: you haue bene very merry, but I feare, you will neuer be so againe in this company: for I see in your eyes a spirit of madnesse, which will very speedily bring you to your vnhappy ende: for indeede, within this

houre, you will hang your ſelfe in the ſtable, vpon one of the great beames: and that I will lay a good wager, either with you, or any of this companie. The olde man much moued at this ſpeech, and yet noting his grauitie, tolde him, that he was ſory to ſee a Scholler haue ſo much learning, and ſo little wit: but my friend (qd hee) if you haue any money in your purſe, you ſhall be rid of it, when you will, vpon that wager. Whervpon the Scholler gaue him ten ſhillings, and told him, that if he did not hang himſelfe, within an houre after, and firſt come into the houſe, and aſke forgiuenеſſe of all the houſe, hee ſhould giue him but ten pound for it. The Farmer toke the money, called in for wine and ſugar, and made merry withal. At the houres ende, he came to take his leaue of the Scholler, and his company, who told him, that he muſt pay ten pounds, for that he had not hanged himſelfe. At which words, he finding the deceite, confeſſed his ignorance, payed for the good cheere, and trebling the Schollers money, like a true Gull got him home againe.

The fift Gull, that loſt the wager vpon the great Hogge.

IN the midſt of the Terme, at a certaine Alehouſe or Inne, where couetous wretches ſet their halfe ſtarued hoſes, and themſelues fede vpon browne bread, and redde herrings, vſing after ſupper to ſit, ſixtene at a faggot and a pot of beere, and inquiring of mine hoſt, what newes in the Town: a cunning companion, that could fede vpon the braines of a Conney, gat him a lodging in the houſe: and getting a company of olde written papers, bound vp in ſkrowles, like lawe caſes, would play the penny-father among them, till he had made his market with ſome of them: ſo holding an euen hand among them, talking of many idle things, at laſt brake out into a great admiration of the ſtrange wonders of the world, and of all not the leaſt, of a huge great Hogge, that hee had ſeene in the Countie of Lincolne, neere vnto the

Fennes

Fennes, where were three Sowes that were so high, that the tallest man in the company standing vpright, let him reach as high as he could, he should not touch the backe of it, & these three Sowes with their pigs, were a poore mans, that would sell them for xii. pounds, and if he had had money, he would haue bought them, and haue gotten a hundred pounds by the bargaine. Foure or fiue of those greedy Asses, giuing no little eare to his talke, entreated him that he would bring them thither, and they would beare his charges. But he, onely leaning to one of them, whose purse he knew to be full of mony, secretly in a morning stole away with him, and rode downe with him into the Countrey: where keeping of a certaine blinde house of lodging, kept the poore man at his house fiue or six dayes, to see these great Sowes, and in the end brought him vnto a pretty Sowe, by whom he caused him to stand vpright, and reach vp his hand as high as he could, when he asked him, if he did now touch her backe: Who answered, No: for hee was too high aboue it. Well (quoth he) this is the Sowe that you shall haue for foure pounds of your money that I haue receiued of you, which he had deliuered him the night before. The poore man, finding his greedines kindely met withall, and that he must take the Sowe, or lose all, was content with losse of halfe of his money, to returne againe, as good a Gull as he went out.

The sixt Gull vpon a lifting Dogge.

A Nidleheaded fellow, new come out of the Countrey, & determining, after a little money spending, to returne home with a budget full of newes, met by chance with an odde wagge, cousin Germaine to a Page: who finding his humor, and meaning to fit him in his kinde, fell into this honest kinde of parle with him: Oh old huddle and twang, what newes in the Countrey, that you are come to towne? hast thou beene at a play yet? Yea (quoth the good Clowne) that I haue, two or three. But Sirra, what newes

where you keepe? I am sure you heare all the world. No great newes (quoth the wag) but onely of the huge great lifting Dogge, that came lately out of Barbary: they take but two pence a peece of euery one that seeth him: he is at the signe of the Carnation Hedgehog in Westminster, neere to ỹ Gatehouse: go thither when thou wilt, in my name, and thou shalt see him for a penny. The poore Asse little misrukting the boyes waggery, went in all haste, seeking for such a signe as was not to be found. But, being demaunded wherefore he sought: one of the Pages coparteners in his tricks, told him, if he would giue him but a quart of wine, he would bring him to the Dog. The fellow weary with seeking for the Carnation Hedgehogge, was contented, for the abridging of his further trauaile, to giue him both wine and sugar, with such appurtinances as cost his purse aboue an ordinary. Which done, and the shot payed, out this youngster leads this little wit, from one lane to another, till hauing traced most streets to be thought vpon, at last he brought him out at the townes end, to a poore womãs house, that kept a little Iseland curre: whom shewing vnto this good Goose, Looke you (quoth he) he lifts vp his tayle so high, that you may kisse his arse, if you list: and with those words, laughing, ran away, crying, Oh Gull, Gull, get thee home into the countrey, and carry newes of the lifting Dogge.

The seuenth Gull, for the Pigges, that were Hennes.

A Ranailing vpon the way to London, out of what country, I know not, a certayne prettye quick witted fellow, ouertooke a company of horsemen, who to passe away ỹ time, fell to talk of such things, as came in their heads: Some of Horses, some Hawkes, some Hounds, some Hares, and some Connies: but towardes their iourneyes end, they fell to talking of wonders, each one recounting what he had seene: Some the long pitch at New-market, other the stones

by

by Salisbury, and some the top of Powles, and other of the Lyons in the Tower: but among all this, the youth in a basket that ouertoke the company, began to tell of a most miraculous thing that he had seene, & that but two nights before: that in a towne some fourty myles behinde him, at the signe of the Whip and the Egge shell, he did see twelue pigges in a yard, going by two Sowes, and in the morning they were all Hennes. Many seemed to wonder at it, & the more at his sober protesting of his truth in his tale. Whereupon, one simple man of the company, desirous to carry newes home of such things as he had seene abroad, desired this fellow at his comming backe againe, to beare him company to that Towne, and into his way back againe, & he would beare part of his charges for his kindnes. This being betwixt themselues agreed vpon, their businesse being dispatched together, they rid home together: where, being well dried after a wet iourney, going to supper, they had one of the Pigges well rosted in his houle, whole name was Henne: and in the morning, asking for their Henne Pigges, he shewed him all the rest. Wherewith finding himselfe sweetly deceyued, ashamed to tell the world how he was abused, like a good poore Gull, gat him out of the Countrey.

The eyght Gull, vpon the Gardens.

IT fell vpon a time, much about Sturbridge faire, that many mad people, minding to throwe away a little money, for lacke of company in the City, would needs go make merry in the Country, among whom was one lolly lusty wench, that had made her selfe fatte with good Ale and laughing. This piece of houshold stuffe, being hostesse of I know not what Inne, say her husband what he list, would make one among her friends: and being some three or fourescore miles out of London, in a Countrey market Towne, where were some such girles, as thought their pennies good siluer, and their ware worth money: After they had beene merry some

few dayes, and almoſt emptied a poore Tauerne of al his runlets, inquiring as the faſhiõ is, after newes, this good miſtris, falling to her turne to talke of wonders, told them, that one of the greateſt wonders, that euer ſhée ſaw, or heard of, was of late in the Citie, done by a ſtranger touching gardens, and the preſeruation of flowers, for ſhe had ſéene it with her eies, that he had taught diuers how to take in their gardens euery night at their windowes, and let them out againe euery morning. Which thing the neighbours that came with her, ſéemed to ſmothe vp, that they had heard of the like, but they had neuer ſéene it. But ſhe with ſolemne othes ſtill affirmed, that ſhe had ſéene it, & could bring them to it. While they all gaue eare vnto it, one chiefe woman of the company, who had her purſe well lyned, and cared not for to ſpend a little money for the ſatisfying of her humor, vpon a beliefe of her ſolemne proteſtations, tolde her, that if ſhe might be aſſured to come to the ſight of that ſhe ſpake of, ſhée would take ſome of her neighbours with her, and ſhée would beare her companie backe to London. To be ſhort, the matter was agréed vpon, the wonder was beléeued, the day appointed for their iourney, and together they came to London, where they lay all at her houſe, had good chéere, and payed well for it. But after that they had gone abroad with the Hoſteſſe, to ſée ſightes, Cheapeſide, the Exchange, Weſtminſter, & London Bridge, had béene vpon the toppe of Powles, béene at the Beare-garden, ſéene a play, and had made a Tauerne banquet, looking into their purſes for to diſcharge their expences, were willing to ſée this ſtrange ſight of theſe gardens, which ſhée had dayly promiſed to bring them to, but ſtil making excuſe, that they were in the Countrey, and not yet come to London againe, that had ſuch gardens to be ſéene: in the ende brought them into a little lane, whereout at a garret window, ſhée ſhewed them a poore widdow ſetting out certaine bords, and vpon them certaine earthen pottes, in which were diuers kindes of flowers, and herbes, as Gilly-flowers, Carnations, and ſuch like. The woman ſéeing her ſelfe, with her com-

pany

pany mocked with this iest, made little shew of anger, but seemed to laugh it out, and with this tricke of mistris Hostesse, to gather some mony with her wit, toke a Gull with her into the Countrey, to sede a sole when she found him.

The ninth Gull, that wisht for the Wood.

AMong madde Countrey wenches, that when they sit a milking, will be talking of their sweete hearts, it was my happe not long since, lying close under a bush, to heare a merry tale, of a bird little wiser then a Woodcocke. There was a yong fellow that was well furnished for implements of household, mary his wealth was not great, and his wit but little, and his spirit of a weake constitution. For as it fell out, a rich widdowe, that was past a girle, and therefore knew what to do with a good thing when she had it, hearing diuers reports of such persons, as she was wished to make much of, among al, she heard of one yong man, a neighbours sonne of hers, to bee a sufficient man to doe her much good seruice, either within the house, or without, either for plowing, or threshing, or sowing, or such countrie worke, as best fitted her occupation. This yong man she sent for, and as farre as modestie might, shee made shew of her affection: which the Gose not perceiuing, she carried him [illegible] into her chamber, where she told him, he must haue his helpe to remoue a chest. The fellow vnderstanding nothing more then was tolde him, went in with the widdow, and all alone from one chamber to another, the doores shutting after them: where shee often smiling at his either shamefastnes or foolishnesse, in the ende carryed him to a chamber, where stoode a chest that hee could not remoue: whē, saying he would fetch company to helpe him, she answered no, now she was otherwise minded. And so leading downe againe the good Asse, she neuer sent more for him. A friend of his, meeting of him coming forth, hoping of his good hap, knowing his being aboue

with her alone, asked him how he had sped. Whose answere was, Oh, I wisht I had had her in the wood, & then I would haue tolde her my minde. Now what a notable Gull was this, I leaue to all good humord wenches to consider.

The tenth Gull that shooke his gloues.

THis tale was no sooner ended, but another wench began to quite her in this sort: Nay, then I will tell thee of as good an Asse, as that was for his life. In our Towne not long ago, one of the chiefe of our Parish, who was twise Churchwarden, and in election to be Bailife, a good fat grosse Churle, hauing a good house of his owne, and well to take to, marryed a widdow, that dwelled three miles off: who, hauing good Cattell, and corne, and some household of her owne, by the motion of good friends, made a match together. But this Churle, being troubled with some sixteene diseases, lay himselfe in one bed, and his wife in an other by him: who hauing a kinde of more then good liking to a yong man in the house, some kinsman of his, with shapes-eyes and smiles, and such odde kind of wicked kindnes, she made him vnderstand her minde: and being agreed one night to come into her chamber, when hee was asleepe, shee told him, for feare of the worst, that he should take a paire of her gloues, and slappe them to and fro in his hand, which would make a noyse like vnto a great Spaniell that vsed often to shake his eares: which lesson he forgot not. Night was come, the candles out, they in bedde, and he came creeping like a dogge. But the doore creaking, the old man halfe awake, or not fast asleepe, asked who was there? when the fellow shaking of his gloues together, made him thinke it was the dogge: when saying, Oh, Troll, he lay still as though he slept. But the fellow missing his way in the darke, running his head against his masters bed-post, vpon a sudden the old man start vp his head, with, How now? who is there? The poore man amazed, forgetting to slappe his gloue, answered, Forsooth, it is the dog. Where-

at his mistris laughing, bad hang him vp. Whereat the fellow, as it were following in, and seeking to driue him forth, cryed, Come out. But in the morning, as I heard, the Gull was put in a cope, where I heard no more of him.

The eleuenth Gull, vpon the Cole-wort.

IT is a tricke among many Trauailers, if they light into companie, that they thinke haue not passed the Seas, to tel wonders, that wise men ought not to beleeue vpon the first hearing. Among which kind of people, it fell out one day at an Ordinarie, that a certaine idle cõpanion, that loued to heare himself speake, and would talke more then either he vnderstood, or euer heard of, hearing diuers at the table talking of the diuersitie of soyles, and the natures of fruits, began himselfe with a fine and all so fine kinde of lisping vtterance, to tell, that he had séene many countries, and noted the diuersities of their natures: but of all, one especially hee noted for the fertilitie of the soyle, where among many kindes of rootes, Gourdes, Melons, and such other kind of fruits, there grewe in one waste péece of ground, néere vnto a garden, a Colewort of that hugenesse for height, and breath, that foure score Tinkers vpon a sunny day sate at worke together vnder the shadow of it. Nowe while euery body wondered at his tale, and some, that he was not ashamed to lye so broad, that no body could lie by him, one well conceited spirit of the company, vpon the sudden, thinking to quite him in his kind, brake out into this speech: Why, it is not so strange, as that which I heard was in the same place, that all those Tinkers did worke together vpon one kettle. For what vse (quoth the Trauailer) Marry sir (quoth the other) to scethe your Colewort in. At which [illegible] with as much spéede as he could, like a lying Gull, bad him [illegible] company.

Palquiss tests, and

The twelfth Gull, vpon the cry of Hounds.

I Read among the discourses of country actions, that a Gentleman of the Countrie, that loued home-sportes, as Hawking, Hunting, Ducking, Fowling, and Fishing, and such like: but of all, especially a good cry of Hounds, of which he kept the best in al the Country: vpon a morning riding forth, néere a wood side start a Hare, who led the Hounds a chase thorow the wood; where the winding of the hornes, the hollowing of the hunts-men, and the mouthes of the dogs, made such a countrey pleasant swéet noyse, that the Master of the sport, sitting still vpon his horse, as one halfe rauisht with his pleasure, estéeming no musicke comparable to such a cry, sodainely brake out into this spéech among them that were néere him, Oh what a heauēly noise is this! List, list, for Gods sake, is not this a heauenly noyse? Whereat one Gull of the company, who, as it should séeme, neuer heard any dog but a Mastiffe, holding vp his eare, as it were towardes the Skie, to heare some noyse from the heauens, brake out into these words, Oh Lord, where is this heauenly noyse? Why harke (quoth the Gentleman) list awhile, dost thou not heare? No (quoth the Gull) the curres kéepe such a bawling, I can heare nothing for them. Whereat the Gentleman laughing, and yet inwardly chafing at the fooles wit, rode away from him, and left him to learne more vnderstanding.

6 0062

FINIS.